

By Robert Strauss

Katherine Kish was only a little worried. It was the day after a torrential spring storm had left fallen trees and pools of mud in the area around Marquand Park on U.S. 206. Princeton Mayor Mildred Trotman and U.S. Representative Rush Holt were scheduled to participate in a dedication ceremony for Kish's organization, Einstein's Alley, an economic development initiative of financiers, researchers and academics that support Central Jersey tech businesses.

"It was miserable," says Kish, "but I know Rush, and I knew he would be there." The mayor made it, too, but as she was leaving, her car became stuck in the mud.

"Rush didn't take a second before taking his jacket off and putting his shoulder to the car, finally helping push it out," recalls Kish. "That says it all about Rush. Always at an event, pushing science and education any way he can—and then never being embarrassed or hesitant about getting in there and doing dirty work."

Einstein's Alley—an initiative inspired by Holt—is indeed up the seven-term congressman's alley. The only physicist in Congress, he is an advocate for math and science education, biomedical research, children's health, sustainable energy and farmland protection, as well as social causes such as human rights and women's right to choose.

"Rush has made science cool, accessible, not geeky, just by being a sensible advocate," says Kish. "He knows how important an understanding of science is all around the country, but especially here in New Jersey."

Or as Holt's campaign bumper stickers read, and as Paul Krugman, the liberal *New York Times* columnist and Princeton professor of economics and international affairs, proclaimed proudly in his blog: "My congressman IS a rocket scientist."

"He is the go-to guy for science in Congress," says Valerie Thomas, a Georgia Tech industrial engineering professor who served as a Congressional Science Fellow in Holt's office in 2005. "There is no one who takes on those difficult issues in science in Washington like Rush."

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